

Magnuson Park Advisory Committee Minutes
Building 30 Officers Club
December 13, 2013 from 6 – 7:30 PM

Attending: MPAC Members: Julianna Ross (Chair), Ed Bronsdon (Vice-Chair), Peter Zimmerman, Gail Chiarello, Morgan Collins, Lynn Ferguson (for Rusty Williams), Tom Kelly, Diana Kincaid, Colby Bradley, Aaron Hoard, Herb Curl, Loren Hill.

Parks staff: Cheryl Fraser, Brian Judd.

Guests: Emily Bishton (Magnuson Nature Programs), Tracy Bennett (Seattle Waldorf School), Rep. Gerry Pollet, Mitch Cameron (Santos Place), Adrienne Karls (Santos Place). Todd Mason (Seattle RC Racers) .

Chair Julianna Ross called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Announcements from the Chair:

- Endless Gates sculpture. Andy Sheffer has stated that this sculpture is available for installation at Magnuson Park, but the Chair feels it is important to review possible art installations carefully, in terms of their space requirements, and their appropriateness for Magnuson Park. It is possible this sculpture could be installed on a temporary basis.
- Radio station update: There are five competitors for the frequency, two on Bainbridge Island. SPACE may partner with the Mercer Island Booster Club.
- Parks Legacy Committee: MPAC has sent a letter endorsing items on which there was a consensus. Loren Hill expressed disappointment that more fields were not called out in the MPAC letter, especially since additional fields were a priority in the Strategic Plan, and requested that the letter be amended. He thought a rough average of 50,000 fields users annually at Magnuson Park fields were bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue collected from field rental fees at Magnuson Park fields into the Parks budget. Diana Kincaid pointed out that the Citizens Advisory Committee/AKA the Legacy Committee had voted down a capital expense for Magnuson Park, on the grounds that no other specific park had asked for ear-marked funding. Money for fields was in that item but instead has been added to the more general pot. Cheryl Fraser stated that MPAC should talk about what Magnuson Park really needs at its next meeting.

Approval of the October and November Minutes. The October 2013 Minutes were approved with changes, and the November 2013 Minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None

Director's Report (Cheryl Fraser and Brian Judd): Cheryl introduced the new Magnuson Park manager, Brian Judd, who will provide day-to-day on-site direction. Previously Brian had managed 5 community centers in southeast Seattle, as a Senior Recreation Coordinator. Brian expressed his excitement about his new position and said he looked forward to bringing the community and the stakeholders together, and working to implement last year's Strategic Plan for Magnuson, which he found "fantastic."

Cheryl reported that Magnuson Park staff had finally moved out of the trailers. Staffing changes: Chelsea Johnson will be replacing Michelle Atkins as the Event Coordinator, since Michelle is moving to the Parks Permit office at Green Lake Community Center.

Building 11: The Waldorf School is preparing its renovation plans and classes will begin in the fall of 2014. The Cascade Bicycle Club lease is at City Hall and will be reviewed by City Council in January. The Parks Department will honor Sail Sand Point's earlier contract with the Building 11 LLC in terms of space improvements, including a kitchenette, restrooms, replacement of 3 bay doors, and modernizing the electrical and heating systems. Other potential tenants are, for 1000-1500SF of second floor space, the Schmidt Ocean Institute headed up by Wendy Schmidt and funded by Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt and his wife. The Institute works with NOAA and the University of Washington. Two restaurants have expressed an interest including one owned by Ron Sher of Third Place Books.

Modernizing the Historic Campus Electrical System: Westmark Construction and their electrical subcontractor, Haggard Electric, was the low bidder. A construction trailer is parked outside of Building 11. Work should be finished by the end of April.

Building 18: Historic reviews are complete with no exceptions. Project is permitted. Somehow a window in the tower had come open and two barn owls entered. Parks had its biologist/consultant check; the two owls immediately left when the consultant entered; and the window was re-closed. Cheryl asked Emily Bishton to speak to the barn owl issue. Emily is the director for Magnuson Nature Programs located in the Community Center. There had been nesting barn owls in the building hose drying tower, catching 20-25 rats a night. To exclude them in preparation for construction access to the tower was blocked, but they were later able to get in via damaged windows and didn't seem to be able to get out until the door was opened for them. After that the building was resealed so they shouldn't be able to get in again before construction starts."

The Brig: The Brig is undergoing maintenance and a face-lift of the interior. Work is scheduled from March 17 to April 5th and will include updating the kitchen and the restrooms.

Waldorf School (Tracy Bennett): Tracy said that the high school would open with 75 students in September 2014. They hope to increase the number of students from 75 to 85-90. Waldorf School will occupy 13,000SF and abut the Cascade Bicycle space. She passed out renderings of the interior, the exterior, and the floor plan. There will be space for dance and performance events, two dedicated science labs, an art studio on the mezzanine space, and a student center with a kitchen area. Eurhymics (dance + movement), choir, Mandarin and Spanish are among the offerings. Students come from as far as Renton, Bainbridge, and Whidbey, but the bulk of students take public transportation.

Lynn Ferguson asked if the Landmarks Preservation Board had to approve the designs for the renovation. Tracy said yes and that they were working with Kevin Bergsrud on a presentation. There will be two flags at the entrance to the school, and signage. Pete Zimmerman asked about the school year. Classes start the Wednesday after Labor Day and end on June 10th. There could be summer programming. Emily Bishton asked about "service learning," saying that she can use students to assist with her summer Nature Camp. Tom Kelly asked about scholarships for Waldorf students; Tracy responded that about 30%

of the elementary school students and 50% of the high school students receive financial assistance. One million dollars is available for financial assistance.

A question was raised about the radiological safety of the site. Tracy said the school had done due diligence, had a radiological survey performed, and was comfortable that there were no risks.

Building 9 (Rep. Gerry Pollet): Rep. Pollet send apologies from Speaker Frank Chopp who could not attend. Building 9 is now owned by the Washington State Department of Commerce. Janet Masella (Janet.Masella@commerce.wa.gov) is the program manager and will be putting out an invitation to MPAC to identify 3-4 individuals to sit on an advisory body after January. MPAC should e-mail Gerry with these names. (NOTE: Margaret Thouless of Hawthorne Hills Community Council, the neighborhoods alternate to GC, is interested in serving). The advisory group will have a total membership of 8-9 individuals and will not only work with Commerce on the RFP but also hopefully continue to work with the chosen developer. The Department of Commerce wants to set a model for working with the community, and wants to work with the community from start to finish.

Commerce will fast-track development of Building 9. The draft RFP will be ready at the end of February, and the actual RFP issues March 6th. Redevelopment proposals will be due by late March, and in June, a developer should have been selected and a contract issued.

The building presents some design challenges, since it consists of two wings plus a center space. Commerce will take suggestions on how best to use the center space—possibly for some community purpose.

Julianna Ross asked about the budget. The legislature has provided \$10M now, but after factoring in the value of all the tax credits, an estimated \$14-16M will be needed from Commerce. The number of units of work-force housing and of market-rate housing has not yet been determined; some of this will be determined by the RFP. In response to question, Rep. Pollet stated that there is no legal definition of “work force housing,” but that it was different from “affordable” housing which is 60-100% of the median income, currently in Seattle at \$50-80K for a household of four. Rep. Pollet said there had been no discussion of “micro-housing,” and in his opinion, there should be a significant number of units of housing for families, since there is more space at Magnuson than there is downtown.

Commerce is looking for a non-profit developer who will enter into a long-term lease and operating agreement. The lease might be similar to that of Solid Ground. Although the developer can utilize tax credits, he/she will still need to put out \$30-50M.

Magnuson Strategic Plan (Cheryl Fraser): Cheryl said that the Strategic Plan will drive Magnuson Park’s work plan. Since the investment proposal for Magnuson was turned down by the Legacy Committee, things like ball fields, pedestrian improvements, circulation plans, and renovation of Buildings 18 and 2 will have to compete for funding with city-wide parks project. The CAC turned down the idea of specific projects for a specific park.

In discussion, the group seemed to favor asset management, the NOAA access road, making the park friendlier to persons of all abilities.

Tom Kelly said that the progress report would be more complete if it included creating new wetlands plus Green Seattle Partnership contract crew work implementing the Vegetation Management Plan. He said that to really understand the park, allocations, and priorities would require financial reporting showing all of its assets, liabilities, cash flows and depreciation, etc., but the City's systems don't break those down by park and program within the park. Looking at things like strategic plan progress helps fill the void and gives citizens some understanding, although incompletely. Cheryl responded, "We're working on it"

Herb Curl mentioned that in the highway 520 mitigation of a year ago, there was supposed to be funding for a project at Magnuson Park. Loren Hill said the state didn't come through with the money, but this is the highest priority. He asked if there was any active seeking re funding for fields? Cheryl responded the new dollars were not there, and the City seemed to be trying to protect and improve assets it already has. The bucket of \$\$\$ which might be spent for synthetic turf could be used to improve other park assets. Loren thought that the Return on Investment of fields was so high as to justify additional spending. Morgan Collins raised the question of \$2M needed to repair the pier at the North Shore Recreation Area. He pointed out this has been in the Master Plan for 10 years, but he never sees it called out. Diana Kincaid thought the circulation plan and signage should be moved up as priorities.

Mountain Bikes on Trails (general discussion): The issue is coming before the Board of Parks Commissioners and may be addressed in February. One option is to try a pilot at a single location. Tom Kelly pointed out that Magnuson Park is only about 1.4 miles long—and bikes go 4X faster than human beings. Herb Curl pointed out that people are already going too fast. Diana Kincaid suggested that MPAC resend its letter on mountain biking in the wildlife areas shortly before the Parks Board meeting.

MPAC By-laws (Cheryl Fraser and Julianna Ross): Cheryl Fraser will red-line the organizational documents with suggested changes for discussion at the January meeting.

Parks Legacy Committee/CAC (Diana Kincaid): The Interim Report of this committee will be out soon. It will contain 37 Investment Initiatives. There will be three more public meetings in January:

January 23: International District Community Center

January 28: High Park Community Center

January 31: Bitter Lake Community Center

Then in late February the CAC will meet again to look at funding mechanisms: a 6-year levy, a long-term levy, and/or a Metropolitan Parks District. The final report will go to Council mid-March. It takes Council action to authorize any sort of bond or ballot issue. The intention at this time is to have something on the ballot for the August 2014 election.

Circulation Sub-committee (Loren Hill): The Circulation Sub-committee will meet at 5PM January 15th just before the regular MPAC meeting. Currently members are Diana Kincaid and Tom Kelly with Loren Hill, Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Chiarello